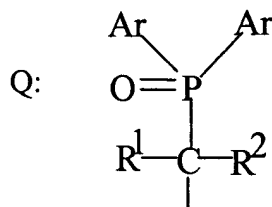


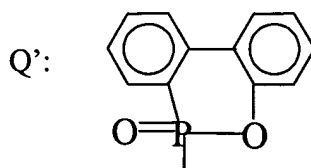
### REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered this Application in connection with the Examiner's Action, and respectfully request reconsideration of this Application in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify that, when the hardener has the formula (C), then Q has the formula:



Applicants have also amended Claim 1 to clarify that, when the hardener has the formula (G), then Q' has the formula:



Pending in this application are Claims 1 – 25.

#### I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 2000344788 ("JP '788"). The Examiner asserts that JP '788 anticipates hardener (G) of Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that JP '788 does not disclose all of the elements of amended Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that when the hardener is formula (G), then Q' has the formula shown above, in which two aromatic rings are bound directly to one another. JP '788 does not disclose a hardener having this structure. Thus, JP '788 does not anticipate Claim 1.

For these reasons, Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, and 22 are patentable over JP '788.

**II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

**A. Japanese Patent No. 08012692**

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 08012692 (“JP ‘692”). The Examiner asserts that JP ‘692 teaches fire retardants having the structure of hardener (G) of Claim 1 and that it would have been obvious to utilize the compounds as hardeners.

Applicants respectfully assert that JP ‘692 does not teach or suggest a compound having the structure of hardener (G) of Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that when the hardener is formula (G), then Q’ has the formula shown above, in which two aromatic rings are bound directly to one another. JP ‘692 does not teach or suggest a compound having this structure. Thus, it would not have been obvious in view of Saito to utilize the compounds of Claim 1, nor to utilize them as hardeners.

For these reasons, Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, and 22 are patentable over JP ‘692.

**B. U.S. Patent No. 4,086,206 to Saito et al.**

Claims 1, 4, 11, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,086,206 to Saito et al. (“Saito”). The Examiner asserts that Saito teaches amines having the structure of hardener (C) of Claim 1 which are fire retardant and that it would have been obvious to utilize the compounds as hardeners.

Applicants respectfully assert that Saito does not teach or suggest a compound having the structure of hardener (C) of Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that when the hardener is Formula (C), then Q has the formula shown above, in which the two aromatic rings are not bound directly to one another. Saito does not teach or suggest a compound having this structure. Thus it would not have been obvious in view of Saito to utilize the compounds of Claim 1, nor to utilize them as hardeners.

For these reasons, Claims 1, 4, 11, and 15 are patentable over Saito.

**III. Objections to Dependent Claims**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16 – 18, 20, 21, and 23 – 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

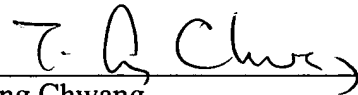
In view of the above Amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of the base claim has been overcome. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16 – 18, 20, 21, and 23 – 25 be withdrawn.

**IV. Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of the foregoing comments, Claims 1 – 25 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 20, 2004  
Date